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## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH.

*To the Council of the Archaeological Institute of America.*

GENTLEMEN:

The most signal event in the past year has been the legal incorporation of the School in Jerusalem under the title AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH. Incorporation was effected under the laws of the District of Columbia in June, 1921, after the step had been unanimously ratified by the Managing Committee and approved by the President of the Institute.

The organization of the new corporation is similar to that of the School in Athens, with the institutions and individual patrons contributing at least \$100.00 annually as the constituent body, and the executive power lodged in a board of fifteen Trustees.

Three of these Trustees are appointed, respectively, by the Archaeological Institute, the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, and the American Oriental Society; the remaining twelve are elected by groups of three in successive years.

The first Trustees under the charter are:

- Prof. James C. Egbert, Columbia University, for the Archaeological Institute;
- Prof. Warren J. Moulton, Bangor Theological Seminary, for the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis;
- Mr. Wilfred H. Schoff, Secretary of the Commercial Museum of Philadelphia, for the American Oriental Society;
- President Cyrus Adler, Dropsie College;
- Prof. Benj. W. Bacon, Yale University;
- Prof. George A. Barton, Bryn Mawr College and Philadelphia Divinity School.
- Prof. Howard C. Butler, Princeton University;
- Prof. Albert T. Clay, Yale University;
- Prof. A. V. W. Jackson, Columbia University;

Prof. Morris Jastrow, Jr., University of Pennsylvania;  
Prof. James A. Montgomery, University of Pennsylvania and  
Philadelphia Divinity School;  
Mr. Edward T. Newell, President of the American Numismatic Society;  
Dr. James B. Nies, President of the American Oriental Society;  
Prof. James H. Ropes, Harvard University;  
Prof. Charles C. Torrey, Yale University.

This list includes the former Executive Committee with the fortunate addition of three well-known scholars, Messrs. Butler, Jackson and Newell.

The Trustees as nominated met for organization in New York on June 17, elected officers, and framed provisional By-Laws. The officers are: President, James A. Montgomery; Vice-President, James C. Egbert; Secretary and Treasurer, George A. Barton; Associate Secretary, Wilfred H. Schoff, these with Messrs. Jastrow and Nies constituting the Executive Committee. At a subsequent meeting in New York, Sept. 27, the Provident Life and Trust Company of Philadelphia was appointed Assistant Treasurer, and Prof. Julian Morganstern, of Hebrew Union College, was elected a Trustee to succeed the late Dr. Jastrow.

The comprehensive word "Schools" in the new title will doubtless explain itself. It gives us the charter right to establish further schools in the Orient and we had in mind specifically the long projected School in Bagdad.

This forward step has been followed by the transfer of the title to our property in Jerusalem to the new corporation. The title had been held since we purchased the land by an individual trustee under the very uncertain provisions of Turkish law. By pressing the case before the new British Government of Palestine the title has now been transferred to the Corporation. We have to thank M. Gelat, for long our Trustee of the land, for his faithful and honorable stewardship, even under trying circumstances.

The bright outlook with which our official year ended was dimmed by the sudden death of our colleague and fellow Trustee, Dr. Jastrow. The loss of no one could be felt more. The sense of the Trustees was expressed in the following Minute passed at the September meeting:

The Trustees of the American Schools of Oriental Research record here-with their sorrow at the loss from their circle of Professor Morris Jastrow, Jr., so suddenly called away after participating in the first meeting of the Board.

Professor Jastrow's interest in everything human, his wide knowledge, his unbounded energy, his marvellous industry, his readiness to serve in any capacity, his unfailing courtesy, his wisdom and sound judgment, made him an invaluable member of this body. We cannot but regret that the School at Jerusalem is deprived of his stimulating presence this year, and that our infant enterprise in Mesopotamia cannot feel his creative touch. We sadly miss him from our counsels and mourn him as a friend.

Our long deferred purpose of publishing an ANNUAL of the School came to fruit the past year with the publication of the first volume under the editorship of Dr. Torrey. It contained archaeological papers by four one-time Directors of the School, Drs. Torrey, Mitchell, Paton and Moulton. The second volume is now in preparation.

Affairs in the School at Jerusalem have moved prosperously. The evidence of this appears in the accompanying Report of the Director. We would speak in high praise of Dr. Albright's energy and faithfulness, along with his approved scholarship which enables him to be one of the leaders in the stirring intellectual life of modern Jerusalem. He has made good contacts for the School in all directions, and has known how to steer the bark of the School among the perplexing currents of the life in Jerusalem, where many forces, ancient and modern, are in competition and often collision. The Fellow, Prof. C. C. McCown, of the Pacific School of Religion, performed effective work and we are fortunate in having had this well trained scholar on our staff. His special interest lay in the field of Greek manuscripts and he studied the collections in Jerusalem. Prof. M. G. Kyle also spent some months in Jerusalem as a Lecturer on the Staff.

There may be noted in the public duties of the Staff the several series of lectures given by them, and also their active participation in the newly founded Palestine Oriental Society, which in addition to its stated meetings has begun to publish its journal, a periodical of high scientific promise. This young but brilliant organization had its inception in our School.

Since the War, students have not yet begun to move towards Jerusalem. On the roll was only one regular student, Dr. Kukhi, with some transient visitors, among them students

from the American University of Beirut. We hope to establish reciprocal academic relations with this distinguished institution.

The relations with the British School of Archaeology have remained unbroken and satisfactory. Our School retains its rented house as the home of the Director and the Staff. Dr. Albright has taken to himself a wife and over this home life Mrs. Albright now presides. The workshop of the School is in the Way House (situated near our property), which is leased by the British School and in which it is lodged, while we share in its use, having our own offices. The Library was committed to us as our special charge, as we already had a very good nucleus of books. We have spent a considerable sum the past year in the procuring of more books and Dr. Albright reports that the Library now is in creditable condition. The Library is a distinct moral and financial responsibility upon us, because it is our contribution to the affiliated Schools, and we must also hold our place high among the fine libraries that are being amassed in Jerusalem. A thoroughgoing effort has been made to procure the gift of all appropriate scientific publications, published by Universities and museums, and we express our gratitude to them as well as to numerous individual donors.

On the Staff for the coming year are Prof. Wm. J. Hinke, of Auburn Theological Seminary, as Annual Professor, and W. E. Staples, M. A., of Toronto University, as Thayer Fellow.

In looking towards the future we may now expect the fulfillment of our long delayed hopes of a building for the School. With the title to the property assured and with Dr. and Mrs. Nies's generous gift of \$50,000 towards the first building, we are hoping that the building operations may soon be started. High prices and the distance of the field may prolong the initial steps.

We are fully convinced that the School in order to fulfill what is expected of it, should engage in direct archaeological discovery. We have been pursuing some "still hunts" for money, and have secured from the French Government of Syria the reservation of a site for excavation, at Tell el-Kadi, the ancient Dan. While waiting for such larger developments we expect to make some smaller excavations near Jerusalem, in which the fickle Fortune of archaeology may give us interesting results. We report to the Institute that Palestine is now fairly

humming with archaeological interest, with its several Schools and Societies; English, French, German, Italian, Jewish. Two excavations on a large scale are now in progress, that of the British at Ashkelon, and of the University of Pennsylvania at Beisan, while the French are working at 'Ain Duk and the Jewish Society at Tiberias.

The embryonic Badgad School is being carefully cherished. Dr. Barton reports to you independently upon this subject, as Chairman of the appropriate Committee. We are starting a subscription, already being actualized, among interested institutions and individuals, and this in addition to our own funds may be sufficient to open the School in Bagdad. At the beginning it could be operated at a minimum of cost and labor in connection with the Jerusalem School, if the possible overland route between Syria and Mesopotamia be opened up and made secure. It was hoped that Dr. Jastrow, in the coming year, in the company perhaps of others of our number, would be able formally to open our School; his aims will be preserved by his colleagues.

Our support at home has been encouraging. Forty-five colleges and seminaries and seventeen individuals constitute our Managing Committee, paying apiece \$100. This increase in our support is due especially to the efforts of the Treasurer and Dr. Jastrow. In addition, we have instituted a Biblical Research Fund, designed to reach a larger number of people and involving a bureau of publicity. Prof. Mary I. Hussey, of Mount Holyoke College, is proving an effective Field Secretary. Over and above the large expense incurred in the initial stages of such a bureau, a considerable net sum has been raised, and this balance we plan to devote to forward archaeological work apart from the budget of the Schools. A large extent of publicity has been obtained through the issue of our occasional BULLETINS, the edition of the last number being 8,000 copies; these serve to arouse interest in many quarters. Popular articles on the School and its work have been welcomed by editors, and have appeared in a number of journals, and in the Report of the Smithsonian Institution. The Zion Research Foundation, of Brookline, Mass., has donated to the American Schools of Oriental Research \$1000, which will become available in 1922, to be spent in research where early Christian documents may

be found, on condition that the Zion Research Foundation shall receive copies of the originals, and also copies of translations, when such are published. If successful, the gift may be renewed annually for five years. We are pressing plans for the realization of this generous gift.

There exists a certain dissimilarity between the constituency of the Institute at large and that of our Schools, due to the fact that the former is mostly Classical in interest while our clientèle is found among those interested in Oriental and Biblical knowledge. Hence it is that we generally must hold our annual meeting in connection with the Society of Biblical Literature rather than with the Institute, because the former contains more of the members of the Managing Committee. But since we recognize that the charter of the Institute covers all fields of archaeological research, we feel it our duty to contribute in every way to the common work and at the same time desire to realize the benefits that should come from the coöperation outlined in the Institute's program. We take great courage in reading and repeating President Egbert's enthusiastic statement in his Report to the Institute: "I can only state that I am more and more impressed, after reading the reports from Athens, Bagdad and Jerusalem, by the extraordinary opportunity which is now presented. After reading Professor Clay's statement of conditions in Mesopotamia, we will all surely exclaim that we must have a school in Bagdad at once. With due reverence I may use the sacred words which found their origin in this region of which we are thinking, 'Truly, the field is already white for the harvest.'"

For the Trustees,

JAMES A. MONTGOMERY,  
*President.*

November 15, 1921.